



**GLEBE  
FARM  
SCHOOL**

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will be aware, the internet can bring the whole world to your fingertips. Unfortunately, alongside these benefits, come less desirable features. We know that by the end of year 7, most of our children are using social media as part of their social lives. We also know, by speaking to children, that there is often no adult supervision during most of these communications.

There are concerns over inappropriate contact through social media. Although the vast majority of these issues happen outside of school, the pupil anxiety and social conflict resulting from these then manifest in school, affecting both relationships and learning in the school setting. Of course, we are always keen to support where pupil welfare is at stake, whether the issue started within or outside school.

As with any incident reported to us, we take the time to investigate thoroughly and ensure the well-being of all pupils involved. With social media incidents, the time taken to investigate is often lengthy, mainly due to the large numbers of pupils who can become involved and sheer numbers of comments made in the evidence provided to us, sometimes in a very short period of time.

The main social media platforms at the root of these disputes in school are 'WhatsApp', Snapchat and 'TikTok'. The legal age for usage of these apps is 16+ and 13+ respectively. The terms of use agreements for both of these platforms are carefully considered by the producers of the apps. Considerations include emotional maturity of users, alongside internet and cyber safety.

We are sharing these messages with pupils via crew time and ask that you support this at home too.

We appreciate that some pupils are using these platforms with parental permission and supervision.

We advise, in line with NSPCC advice, that you regularly monitor the activity of your child online and regularly engage in 'safety online' discussions. We would also like to remind you that, as a school, we understand our responsibilities to educate our pupils on safe internet usage and to keep them safe in school, but ask that you understand that this is difficult for us where activities are undertaken which flout the legal requirements for users.

Thank you for working with us on this. If you would like to discuss any of the topics in this letter further, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us.

Yours Sincerely,

Matthew Shotton – Headteacher

Erin Stewart – Deputy Headteacher

Stu Livesey – Head of Year 7



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